In the Specification:

The specification of the application is amended herein as indicated in the following clean version of amended paragraphs:

(page 5, last paragraph, amended)

B1 The means for extracting the gaseous contents of the space is preferably a vacuum pump capable of working down to pressures of 2-5 mb Abs.

(page 10, fourth paragraph, amended)

Sub B2 D1 The vacuum at which the system is effective depends upon the defects in the moulding. However the method os more efficient as the vacuum increases. Typical vacuum levels are close to 2.0 mb absolute.

In the Claims:

The claims of the application are amended herein as indicated in the following clean version of the amended claims:

B3 Sub C1 1. (Amended) A method of treating a product having a surface, the surface of the product being of a material that was formed by a method of curing or drying a liquid after applying the liquid to the product, the method of treating the product comprising:

positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent at least a portion of the surface of the product;

positioning a layer of gas permeable material in engagement with the portion of the surface of the product in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the product;

applying heat within the space; and

removing fluid from the product by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is in communication with all of the portion of the surface of the product that is in engagement with the layer of gas permeable material.

Sub D2 2. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a periphery and the step of positioning the layer of impermeable material further comprises securing the periphery of the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the product via adhesive tape.

3. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a peripheral edge that is configured and adapted to form an air tight seal with the surface of the product when biased against the surface by the partial vacuum and the step of removing fluid from the product further comprises securing the peripheral edge of the layer of impermeable material to the surface via the partial vacuum.

4. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising operatively connecting a vacuum pump to the space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the product, the step of removing fluid from the product further comprising utilizing the vacuum pump to reduce the pressure within the space to create the partial vacuum.

5. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the creation of the partial vacuum in the step of removing fluid from the product commences before the step of applying heat within the space.

6. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of removing fluid from the product further comprises reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is maintained between the levels of 2 mb Abs and 5 mb Abs for a period of at least an hour.

7. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the product is a composite moulding of glassfibre and at least partially cured polyester resin and the step of applying heat within the space further comprises applying sufficient heat to cause the surface of the composite moulding to maintain a temperature between 80°C and 90°C for at least an hour, the method of treating the composite molding further comprising the step of preventing the surface of the composite moulding from reaching a temperature in excess of 90°C throughout the method.

8. (Twice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the product is a composite moulding of glassfibre having an outer gelcoat and the method of treating the composite molding further comprises removing the gelcoat and any physically damaged material from the portion of the surface of the composite moulding prior to the steps of positioning the layer of gas permeable material in engagement with the portion of the surface of

the composite moulding and positioning the layer of impermeable material adjacent the portion of the surface of the composite moulding.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of removing the layer of impermeable material and the layer of gas permeable material from the surface of the composite moulding and thereafter applying new gelcoat to the portion of the surface of the composite moulding.

10. (Amended) A method of treating fibre reinforced plastics of a boat hull, the fibre reinforced plastics having a surface, the method of treating the fibre reinforced plastics comprising:

positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent at least a portion of the surface of the fibre reinforced plastics;

maintaining a space between the portion of the surface of the fibre reinforced plastics and the layer of impermeable material;

applying heat within the space; and

removing fluid from the fibre reinforced plastics by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is in communication with all of the portion of the surface of the fibre reinforced plastics.

11. (Amended) An assembly comprising:

a product having a surface;

a layer of impermeable material positioned adjacent at least a portion of the surface of the product;

a layer of gas permeable material in engagement with the portion of the surface of the product in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the product;

a heater operatively connected to the space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the product; and

a partial vacuum within the space, the partial vacuum having a pressure that is less than standard ambient pressure, the partial vacuum being in communication with the entire portion of the surface of the product that is in engagement with the layer of gas permeable material.

12. (Amended) The assembly as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising a vacuum pump operatively connected to the space between the layer of impermeable material and the

surface of the product, the vacuum pump being configured and adapted to maintain the pressure of the partial vacuum between the levels of 2 mb Abs and 5 mb Abs.

13. (Twice Amended) The assembly as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising a thermostat operatively connected to the heater and to the space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the product, the thermostat being responsive to the temperature within the space and the heater being responsive to the thermostat.

14. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

15. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

16. (Twice Amended) The assembly as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a peripheral edge, the peripheral edge being secured to the surface of the product in an air-tight manner solely by a pressure differential resulting from the presence of the partial vacuum within the space.

17. (Canceled, without prejudice)

19. (Newly Added) A method of treating a glass fibre reinforced boat hull, the boat hull having an exterior surface, the method comprising:

positioning a layer of gas permeable material in engagement with a portion of the surface of the hull;

positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull;

securing the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the hull circumferentially around the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that fluid can be evacuated from the space;

applying heat to within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material; and

removing fluid from the hull by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material.

20. (Newly Added) A kit for treating a glass fibre reinforced boat hull having a surface, the kit comprising:

a layer of gas permeable material configured and adapted to be positioned in engagement with a portion of the surface of the hull, the layer of gas permeable material having a periphery;

a layer of impermeable material configured and adapted to be positioned adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material can be positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull, the layer of gas permeable material being configured and adapted such that the layer of impermeable material can not contact the portion of the surface of the hull when the layer of impermeable material is positioned over the layer of gas permeable material and the layer of gas permeable material is in engagement with the portion of the surface of the hull;

means for securing the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the hull around the periphery of the layer of gas permeable material to thereby enclose and seal the space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the hull when the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull;

means for applying heating within the space; and

means for reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that fluid can be extracted from the hull through the portion of the surface of the hull and through the layer of gas permeable material when the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull and the layer of impermeable material is secured to the surface of the hull around the periphery of the layer of gas permeable material.

21. (Newly Added) The kit as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the layer of gas permeable material and the layer of impermeable material are each sufficiently flexible so as to allow the portion of the surface of the hull to be one of a plurality of differently contoured portions of surfaces that are each compatible for use with the kit.

22. (Newly Added) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of removing fluid from the product further comprises removing gaseous fluid from the product.